



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
THANKSGIVING DAY, CREATION CARE

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

Thursday - 24 November, 10am, 2022

The Psalmist declares, *“The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (19:1-4).*

Creation never ceases to proclaim, but do we hear? We commit to “Listen to the Voice of Creation.” By listening to the voice of all creation, humans from all cultures and sectors of life can be joined in our call to care for Earth, our common home.

The burning bush is the symbol for this Season of Creation. Today, Creation cries out as forests crackle in flames, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of unheeded climate changes.

In contrast, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God’s presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Song: “*Come ye thankful people come*”

#290

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: The Holy One’s love is new every morning.

Gloria: *Canticle 12: A Song of Creation part II* (spoken)

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,

and all that grows upon the earth, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *

O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *

and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Amen.

Presider: God our Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

The Collect:

All: We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen

(Please be seated for the reading of the lessons)

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 26:1–11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

The Psalm: *Read in unison*

Psalm 100

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
 come into his presence with singing.**

3 Know that the Lord is God.

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

**4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
 and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Second Lesson: A reading from the book Philippians 4:4–9

‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John 6:25–35

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

Nicene Creed *(Traditional)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: Lord, there is no pain in our hearts or in our planet that you do not know, for you have touched the lowest places on earth.

People: **Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is passing away.**

Leader: There is no place in the heavens that cannot be touched by your resurrection presence, for you fill all things.

People: **Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love, which does not despair but keeps sowing seeds of hope and making signs of wholeness.**

Leader: In you, Lord Christ, all the parts of the body fit together joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is provided. Each part working together, promotes the body's growth, building itself up in love.

People: Teach us to recognize our interconnectedness with all things. Teach us to grow with each other and all living creatures through love.

Leader: Let us be at peace within ourselves.

People: Let us accept that we are profoundly loved and need never be afraid.

Leader: Let us be aware of the source of being that is common to us all and to all living creatures.

People: Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Leader: Realizing that we are all nourished from the same source of life, may we so live that others are not deprived of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

People: Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be a cause of suffering to one another.

Leader: With humility let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

People: May God kindle in us the fire of love to awaken us and give back humbly and generously to the world. Amen.

The Confession

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

(Short Silence may be kept.)

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the Cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We have sought only our own security. We have exploited for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: Now the land is becoming barren. And the waters are often poisoned. And the air is heavily polluted.

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **Now the forests are burning and dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing.**

Deacon: We have forgotten who we are.

People: **We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. Help us to remember who we are. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on us forgive us all our sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory

Presider: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory music “*Sing out earth and skies*”

See Insert **G#497**

Doxology #380 vs 3 (*Peoples’ offerings are brought to the altar*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him, above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving - *Creation Care Liturgy, Scottish Episcopal Church*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you created all things and all your works echo with music of your praise. All things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws. You made us in your image. You give us breath and speech, so that now we give you thanks for setting us as stewards over the whole world in all its wonder.

Therefore we praise you day by day for the marvels of your power, creativity, and natural beauty: along with all the earth — united with heaven to sing a new song of creation:

Sanctus

#S130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might (x2)
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

The Presider continues

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at the creation.

Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion. Obedient to your will, he died upon the Cross. By your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end.

At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We now recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon this bread and this wine (+), that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

(G#827, refrain only)

**Taste and See, Taste and See,
The goodness of the Lord
O Taste and See, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. Come to the rail and extend your hand to receive the bread, wait for the chalice to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, then consume it. If you prefer not to have the wine, you may eat the bread when you receive it. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Communion Hymn: “*I am the bread of life*”

G#822

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider Let us Pray

All: **Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace, plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: *God the Creator, who loves us and gave this world to be our home, God the Redeemer, who loves us and by dying and rising again leads the way to freedom, God the Sanctifier, who spreads the divine love in our hearts, God the three in one and one in three, bless you and keep you now and forever.*

Amen.

Closing Song: “ *Now Thank We All our God*”

#397

Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen’s, what does God call us to do?

People: **We are called to love and serve.**

Deacon: *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God’s Spirit.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Please, join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after worship.

